

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Norfolk Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

2:07CR162

TERRANCE JEREMY MERKLE,

Defendant.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING GUILTY PLEA

Defendant, by consent, has appeared before the undersigned pursuant to Rule 11, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and referral from a United States District Judge and has entered a guilty plea to conspiracy to make false statements to purchase firearms, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 924(a)(6). Defendant is also charged with three counts of making false statements to purchase firearms, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(a)(6) and 924(a)(2). Defendant understands that these charges will be dismissed upon acceptance of his guilty plea, and the United States confirmed defendant's understanding.

On November 8, 2007, defendant appeared before the Court for the purpose of entering his guilty plea. He was represented by appointed counsel, Walter B. Dalton, Esquire. Defendant was appropriate in appearance, responsive, and competently prepared for the hearing. He answered all questions put to him in clear and concise language. On those occasions when he had a question, defendant consulted with counsel and then promptly answered. Defendant was courteous and appropriate in his behavior at all times and clearly understood the seriousness of his position. At the close of the proceeding, defendant was permitted to remain on bond, pending completion of a presentence report.

Defendant is thirty-three years of age, completed the eleventh grade, and speaks English as his native language. There was no evidence that defendant was on drugs, alcohol, or medication which might impair his judgment. He was cooperative throughout the proceeding.

Defendant entered the guilty plea pursuant to a plea agreement. The Court is completely satisfied, based upon defendant's responses, that he fully appreciates his position. Furthermore, he acknowledged that the statement of facts prepared in anticipation of his plea accurately reflects the government's evidence, in the event of trial.

After cautioning and examining defendant under oath concerning each of the subjects mentioned in Rule 11, the Court determined that the offense charged is supported by independent facts, establishing each of the essential elements of such offense. Therefore, the Court recommends that the guilty plea be accepted and that defendant be adjudged guilty and have sentence imposed accordingly.

Failure to file written objections to this report and recommendation within ten days from the date of its service shall bar an aggrieved party from attacking such report and recommendation before the assigned United States District Judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B).

/s/

James E. Bradberry
United States Magistrate Judge

Norfolk, Virginia

November 9, 2007